

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 TRSE-00 NIC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9588

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6175

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, IT, US

SUBJECT: PANORAMA ARTICLE

REF: PRAGUE 1420

1. WE FULLY UNDERSTAND DESIRE TO SEE RECORD SET STRAIGHT. WE DO NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT COURSE RECOMMENDED PARA 2 REFTEL WOULD HAVE DESIRED EFFECT, BUT, ON CONTRARY, IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

2. WHILE FABIANI PROBABLY QUITE PREPARED TO DISCUSS SUBJECT OF ARTICLE, HE CLEARLY WEARS IDEOLOGICAL BLINDERS WHICH DO NOT PERMIT HIM TO QUESTION ITEMS HE TAKES AS ESTABLISHED FACT, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE KNOWN TO US TO BE TOTALLY FALSE: E. G., THAT " EVERYBODY KNOWS" ABOUT BRIDGES' COVERT ACTIVITIES. WE ALSO MUST POINT OUT THT TOTAL LACK OF EFFECT OF PETER GRIDGES' CATEGORIC DENIAL OF STORY, MADE TO MELEGA BY TELEPHONE IN 1972.

3. THRUST OF COURSE SUGGESTED PARA 2 REFTEL IS TO REPEAT DENIALS TO FABIANI; DENIALS WHICH WE BELIEVE COULD NOT BE CONVINCING GIVEN FABIANI' S IDEOLOGICAL PERSUASION. WE BELIEVE THAT WE WOULD IN SUCH A PROCESS VIRTUALLY WRITE FABIANI' S NEXT ARTICLE FOR HIM. AN INTERVIEW WITH BRIDGES, REGARDLESS OF ANY PRIOR UNDERSTANDINGS, WOULD IN LONG RUN (OR EARLIER) CONTRIBUTE ALMOST CERTAINLY TO
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FABIANI' S JOURNALISTIC BAG OF DIRTY TRICKS.

4. PUBLISHING OF MERRILL LYNCH NEGOTIATED DENIAL WITHOUT COMMENT
WAS PROBABLY BEST THAT COULD BE OBTAINED AND WE ARE CONVINCED
BEST COURSE IS TO LET MATTER REST, CONSISTENT WITH PARA 2
ROME' S 3261. VOLPE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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